

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated October 31, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-35 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 10 and 34 have been amended. Claims 1-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,748,293 to Kikuchi (hereinafter "Kikuchi"). Claims 1, 3-7 and 10-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,158 to Takao (hereinafter "Takao").

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one force absorbing edge recess defined in the body." Kikuchi does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. In the rejection of these claims the Examiner identifies the lug holes 10 as the recess. The lug or locking holes 10 are not force absorbing edge recesses as claimed. The holes 10 are not at the edge, so they are not an edge recess as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 1-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-9 and 22-24 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second pad provided at other end of the body to be engaged to a connector of a second printed circuit board and electrically connected to the first pad." Claims 10-21 and 25-33 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second pad connected at an end of the second portion and electrically connected to the first pad." Claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second pad connected to the second portion and electrically connected to the first pad." Takao does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Takao is directed to a foldable printed circuit board. Takao solves the problem where there is insufficient space for connecting wires between a circuit on the printed circuit board and an external pad. An example of this is shown in Fig. 1 of Takao. Lines 7 and 8 are connected to

terminals 7a and 8a. Lines 7 and 8 are connected to IC-chip 10 on the printed circuit board. When the folding portion 3 of the printed circuit board is folded over the main body, terminals 7a and 8a connect with terminals 5a and 6a. Terminals 5a and 6a are then connected to terminals 5b and 6b respectively via lines 5 and 6. Terminals 5b and 6b then may be connected to an external circuit. As a result, the IC-chip 10 is connected to terminals 5b and 6b and hence to an external circuit. Takao is different from the claimed invention. The present invention is for connecting circuits external to the flexible printed circuit film. Takao only connects internal circuits, *i.e.* circuits on the printed circuit board, to an external terminal. The present invention is directed to a flexible printed circuit film with first and second pads that are electrically connected so that they can connect two external circuits with one another. Takao does not teach or disclose these features of the present invention. Accordingly claims 1, 3-7 and 10-35 are allowable over Takao.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

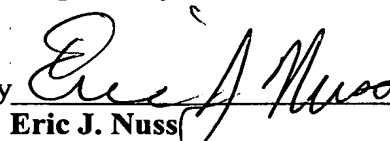
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 31, 2006

By



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